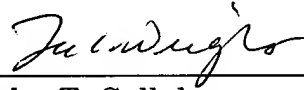


PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
Continuation Application of
U.S. Appln. No. 08/416,738

REMARKS

Entry and consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully
requested.

Respectfully submitted,



John T. Callahan
Registration No. 32,607
Lee C. Wright
Registration No. 41,441

SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN,
MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037-3213
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification is changed as follows:

Before the first line the following sentence is inserted:

This is a continuation of Application No. 08/416,738 filed August 11, 1994, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference. The international application to which benefit is claimed was not published under PCT Article 21(2) in English.

Page 13, first paragraph, is replaced with the following paragraph:

A suitable calcination temperature is not necessarily critical since it depends on the kind of the intended metal oxide, the kinds and concentrations of the hydrogen halide, the molecular halogen and the component prepared from the molecular halogen and steam, or the calcination time. It is preferably from 500 to 1500°C, more preferably from 600 to 1400°C. When the calcination [time] temperature is lower than 500°C, a long time is necessary for calcination. When the calcination temperature exceeds 1500°C, many agglomerated particles tend to be contained in the produced metal oxide powder.

The Table 2 on Page 34 is amended as follows:

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Table 2

Ex.	Oxide	Calcination conditions											Maintaining time (min.)
No.		Atmosphere gas (vol. %)					Gas intro- duction temp. (°C)	Maintaining temp. (°C)					
		HCl	HBr	HF	Cl ₂	N ₂			H ₂ O	H ₂	Air		
11	TiO ₂	100							Room temp.	800	30		
12	TiO ₂	45					10		Room temp.	1100	30		
13	TiO ₂	100							Room temp.	1100	30		
14	TiO ₂	100							800	1100	30		
15	TiO ₂	30				70			800	1100	30		
16	TiO ₂	30							800	800	30		
17	TiO ₂				30	60	10		800	1100	30		
18	TiO ₂				100				800	1100	30		
19	TiO ₂				30	60	10		800	1100	30		
C. 1	TiO ₂								Room temp.	1100	180		
C. 2	TiO ₂								Room temp.	1100	180		

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 2, 3, 29 and 30 are canceled.

The claims are amended as follows:

1 (amended). A metal oxide powder except α -alumina, comprising polyhedral particles having at least 6 planes each, a number average particle size of from 0.1 to 300 μm , and a D_{90}/D_{10} ratio of [10] 5 or less where D_{10} and D_{90} are particle sizes at 10% and 90% accumulation, respectively from the smallest particle size side in a cumulative particle size curve of the particles, and

wherein a ratio of agglomerated particle size to a primary particle size is from 1 to 6.

4 (amended). The metal oxide powder according to claim 3, wherein said ratio of [a primary] an agglomerated particle size to [an agglomerated] a primary particle size is from 1 to 3.

5 (amended). The metal oxide powder according to any one of claims 1 [to] or 4, wherein said metal oxide is a simple metal oxide of a metal element selected from the group consisting of the metal elements of the Groups Ib, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII and VIII of the Periodic Table, except α -alumina powder.

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6 (amended). The metal oxide powder according to any one of [clams] claims 1 [to] or 4, wherein said metal oxide is a simple metal oxide titanium.

7 (amended). The metal oxide powder according to any one of claims 1 [to] or 4, wherein said metal oxide is a simple metal oxide of a metal selected from the group consisting of magnesium, zirconium and iron.

8 (amended). The metal oxide powder according to any one of claims 1 [to] or 4, wherein said metal oxide is a simple metal oxide of cerium.

9 (amended). The metal oxide powder according to any one of claims 1 [to] or 4, wherein said metal oxide is a simple metal oxide of a metal selected from the group consisting of indium and tin.

10 (amended). The metal oxide powder according to any one of claims 1 [to] or 4, wherein said metal oxide is a simple metal oxide of a metal selected from the group consisting of zinc, cadmium, gallium, germanium, niobium, tantalum, antimony, bismuth, chromium, molybdenum, manganese, cobalt, nickel and uranium.

11 (amended). A rutile type titanium oxide powder comprising polyhedral

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particles each having at least 8 planes, a number average particle size of from 0.1 to 300 μm , a D_{90}/D_{10} ratio of 5 or less where D_{10} and D_{90} are particle sizes at 10% and 90% accumulation, respectively from the smallest particle size side in a cumulative particle size curve of the particles, and a ratio of agglomerated particle size to primary particle size of the particles is from 1 to 6.

28 (amended). The method according to claim 13 or 14, wherein said metal oxide powder or metal oxide precursor powder is a metal oxide powder or metal oxide precursor powder of a metal selected from the group consisting of magnesium, titanium, [zirconium] and iron.

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